

The Williamson work had been almost abandoned for some time, but there appears to be quite a revival there now, and matters are looking hopeful. It was my happy privilege to accompany Brother Hall to the above appointment and enjoy a Love-feast with them, and also to preach for them on Lord's day morning, May 25th. In the evening I preached in Hagerstown, Brother Tombaugh's charge.

Thus far, I have been kindly received and well entertained by both pastors and people wherever I have been, no doubt my particular purpose in visiting the churches at this time causes some of the brethren to have slight chills, but I am happy to find them relieved after the services are over and they have contributed their mites to our general work; if they knew the true secret of real godly joy they would make their offerings much larger than they have done thus far. I think two or three visits, not too far apart would make the work easier. With most people religion and the supply of religious needs is merely a side issue, not of paramount importance; it will require much persistent teaching to get many professing Christians to see that the evangelization of the world should be the foremost aim in their lives, and their businesses, or professions, or farms, or trades to be simply agencies for the accomplishment of the great work of God committed to men. Christians should assume the attitude of stewards for God, instead of aiming to become possessed of wealth for their own satisfaction and aggrandisement.

The offerings at the St. James Convention amounted to \$13.33. At Williamson \$2.83, at Hagerstown \$8.39. These amounts are not large when the great need of our auxiliary institutions is considered, but even these amounts are thankfully received. I trust however that other churches that I will visit in the future will not consider these small amounts as gauges as to what they ought to give; a holy rivalry in one church trying to out-do another along this line of work would be highly commendable to the churches and very profitable to our common cause.

Many of the churches are looking about for desirable pastors, but scarcely any of them are willing to furnish the money to educate even one man. The present scarcity of preachers could soon be overcome if each church would supply the necessary means to educate one man, and almost any of our churches would be amply able to do this, as it is a matter of only one hundred and fifty dollars a year, including board and tuition; a little systematic effort would soon secure this amount; the money is not lacking, simply the will to give it.

From Hagerstown I came to Meyersdale, Pa., and stopped at the Hotel Knepper for nearly a week. One of the porters of the regular hotel is responsible for the name of this hostelry. "Johnnie" is a genial host, and his hostess would be competent to take charge of a Sanitarium kitchen as she knows how to feed sick preachers.

I have been in very poor physical condition since I have entered into this work. I however managed to preach at Summit Mills on Saturday evening May 31, where the offering amounted to \$4.52, and I also secured six new subscribers for the EVANGELIST.

On Sunday morning and evening of June 1st, I preached at Meyersdale, here the total offerings of the church were \$21.20. And at a meeting of the Junior S. S. C. E. called after the evening service the young sisters appropriated \$10.00 to my work, thus making the total for my days effort there \$31.22. Meyersdale has always been one of the *clover fields* of the Brethren church, and she nobly maintained her standing during my stay and effort there. May the dear Lord still continue to enlarge the hearts of his noble people there, as they live in a goodly land where there is wealth both in, and under the soil.

J. C. CASSEL.

Field Secretary.

Johnstown, Pa.

We have had stirring times in Johnstown this year and the good work goes on with brother E. H. Smith as the Evangelist in the new church home in the 20th ward where there are large crowds in attendance.

First came the series of meetings in the Somerset street church when 25 united with the church. Then there were those blessed meetings held by brother I. D. Bowman in the 17th ward when 14 more went with us while 2 more were baptized there a few days later. Next Dr. H. M. Wharton began a union meeting under auspices of Y. M. C. A. which resulted in great good to the city and has brought large numbers into the churches, 25 giving the Brethren church as their preference while others who gave no preference are looking this way. The time of the year was against us but we feel very grateful for the results. Seven have been added here since last report, 4 by baptism and 3 by letter. We are praying for 100 this year. The blessed Lord has done more than we could ask or think, praise his holy name. New fields, ripe to the harvest open all around us, "The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few." Pray for laborers.

E. E. HASKINS.

Conemaugh, Pa.

Today is Decoration, and the dead will be remembered by visitors to the cemetery and by an expensive floral offering. I have been attending decoration here for eight years but have never had so much interest at the cemetery as now. On April 20, 1902, we laid away our baby girl, nearly six years old, who was light and life in our home. This is an exceedingly sore affliction. We are comforted with the fact that she is saved and to be saved means to be with God. We now have a little family planted on the golden shore and I am sure God will keep them until we can join them never to be separated from each other any more.

Since our last writing four more have been added to the Conemaugh congregation of the Brethren church, two by letter and two by baptism.

On May 18, 1902 we celebrated the Holy communion which was enjoyed by all present.

By request I visited the Vinco congregation where brother J. L. Bowman is pastor. I preached four sermons preceeding their communion, which was on the 25 of May 1902. All of these meetings were well attended and especially the communion. At the close of the communion an invitation was given and three made the good confession all heads of families.

J. F. KOONTZ.

Gratis, O.

A few words for our church at Gratis. We feel like saying "Praise the Lord" for his wonderful work at Gratis. Brother J. L. Kimmel has been with us for one year and will be with us this year.

Our church has never been as it is now; we are all working, and have love, peace, and unity among its members. We give God all the praise, he has been in our midst, nineteen have been received by baptism. People are coming and taking an interest in the church that have never come before. Something has awakened the people in this community. We are adding new members all the year, we do not have a revival and then stop, but people are coming all the time. God is working with us, he is answering our prayers, and we hope e'er long to be a strong and helpful church. I love the whole brotherhood, but Gratis is near and dear to my heart. We have had trials, and bitter ones, but the beautiful sunshine has come at last, and lifted the clouds away. Oh! for a perfect peace such as we have now existing among our people.

We all want to see the Dayton mission be a mighty power for good, for that is a place for us to center, it has had many drawbacks, but we have confidence, with Brother Kimmel at the head of

the Dayton work, that it will grow. God is with him and many souls have been brought into the fold. He has the work at heart, and will prosper. Every week we hear encouraging words from the Dayton church, and we as a church at large should keep the Dayton church near our hearts.

I so often think of the beautiful words,

How many times discouraged,
We sink beside the way,
About us all is darkness,
We hardly dare to pray,
Then, thru the mists and shadows,
The sweetest voice e'er known
Says "Child am I not with thee,
Never to leave thee alone?"

Oh! how many do feel discouraged, and think they cannot do anything for the blessed Master, but then stop and think, he never leaves us alone. God has promised to be with his children, trust him, be obedient, read his book, be earnest in your work, pray that each day, we may do more and more for his cause, that we may speak some word to some poor soul that will give him or her some comfort, and then the clouds will all roll away, all will be bright for those that love the Lord and do his will.

NAOMI STOVER.

Western District Missions

Having been much impressed with the importance of the mission work of the Kanemorado and Pacific districts, I thought it might be well to suggest some reasons why this work should be more vigorously prosecuted. These two districts, and the adjacent territory unoccupied by the Brethren church, comprise nearly one half of the area of the United States. There are five cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants each in the Kanemorado district and two more in California. In studying the history of the church, from the time of the apostles to the present, one can not fail to see that the cities, especially commercial cities, have been the great centers of evangelization. Consider what the effect would be if we had Brethren churches in all these cities, with their lines of railroad radiating to all parts of the United States and Mexico. The cities of the Pacific coast are bound to increase in commercial importance as a result of the acquisition of Hawaii and the Philippines, and commerce will open new doors to the Gospel.

Within this territory are large numbers of foreigners, both European and Asiatic. The latter are mostly Pagans. Their conversion would be a long step in the direction of foreign missions. Many of the European immigrants were brought up in the Roman Catholic church or in the other state churches of Europe, and come far short of the religion of the New Testament. Many of these foreigners, disgusted with the emptiness and corruption of the state churches, have become infidels and atheists. It is from this class that anarchism gets its recruits. Both as Christians and as patriots, we are in duty bound to give them the pure gospel. Without it, they are a source of danger to our country; with it, they will be an element of strength to the nation, and a blessing to the world. In this territory there are also many Indians and freedmen, among whom a great work could be done.

We have seen how, within the past year, the Brethren's work in the Iliakota district has spread into Canada. It is not too much to expect that the Kanemorado and California work will likewise spread to Mexico, Central and South America, and the islands of the Pacific. There is no place where the pure and peaceable doctrines of Jesus are more needed than among these bloody, unstable Spanish-speaking people. Moreover, the opening of the isthmian canal, which is likely to take place within a few years, will add greatly to the strategic importance of that part of our continent thru which it will pass.

In view of the great needs and the great oppor-